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Pictured at the Walsingham Shrine are Bishop Peter Collins (left), Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía and Bishop Alan Hopes. See more pictures at: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/

Papal Nuncio in Walsingham visit

Celebrating his 15th Episcopal ordination anniversary, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, made a special visit to the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham on Monday June 12. Joshua Clovis reports.

■ The Archbishop was received with warmth and affection by Bishop Peter Collins and, accompanied by Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes, he was given a tour of the original site of the Holy House in the Abbey grounds. They later convened for Mass in the Basilica, where they were joined by Mgr Ervin Lengyel

from the Nunciature, Fr Kevin Smith, the Administrator of the Anglican Shrine, and the resident priests.

The Rector of the Catholic National Shrine, Friar James Mary, extended a warm welcome: “We are so happy to welcome His Excellency, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, and to receive him with great love and affection as the representative of the Holy Father.”

In his homily, His Excellency, deeply moved by the warm reception, expressed his gratitude, stating: “Dear brothers and sisters, I am very blessed to be present with you today at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for this celebration of the Holy Mass, and, in particular, to give thanks to God as I celebrate the 15th anniversary of my Episcopal ordination. I thank Bishop Peter and Bishop Emeritus Alan for their kind and gracious welcome to this Dio-

cese of East Anglia.”

The Papal Nuncio also conveyed Pope Francis’ blessings: “I bring the blessing of His Holiness, Pope Francis, who desired to be close to you through my person.”

He went on to speak about his pastoral ministry: “When we are open to His call, and generous in following His path, He comforts and consoles us, especially in challenging times. I can share with you, that this has been the experience of my pastoral ministry, in all the places I have been called to work and serve. I confidently place my trust in God, at the beginning and at the end of each day. And I know for sure that He is always by my side, guiding every moment by His providence.”

Following the Gospel of the Sermon on the Mount, he said: “In following the Lord’s path, we are truly blessed. But

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Appeal made for Lourdes assisted pilgrims and volunteers

■ A strong Diocese of East Anglia contingent is joining the Catholic Association pilgrimage to Lourdes in August, the first fully assisted pilgrimage since before the pandemic, and is appealing for assisted pilgrims and volunteer helpers to join it. Diocesan Director, Dcn Huw Williams explains.

Each year in August the Diocese of East Anglia joins with the Catholic Association on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. In 2023 it is from August 18 to 25.

The Catholic Association Pilgrimage (CA) is responsible for co-ordinating the welcome and care of our ‘assisted pilgrims’ – those on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes who have particular care and support needs.

The CA is appealing for everyone to invite any friends, family members or fellow parishioners who might want to come to Lourdes as an assisted pilgrim, or as a volunteer helper in order to help provide the support that our assisted pilgrims need.

Assisted Pilgrims

Our assisted pilgrims can choose to stay in either a hotel with some basic support given by volunteer helpers (such as wheelchair assistance in getting around town or to services), or in the Accueil Notre Dame, where medical and personal care is provided. Our assisted pilgrims are very much at the heart of our pilgrimage, and we welcome anyone interested in coming to this beautiful place in the picturesque Pyrenees. In addition, financial help may be available through your Diocesan/Group Director.

The CA Pilgrimage also includes the Glanfield Children’s Group. Since 1987 the group has travelled to Lourdes with many children with learning difficulties, as well as chronic and terminal illness each year.

Volunteer Helpers

Men and women of all ages and backgrounds come to Lourdes as volunteer helpers to answer Our Lady’s request for people to ‘come in procession’. These volunteer helpers, who are pilgrims themselves, strive to encounter Jesus in each pilgrim, caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. The Catholic Association Hospitalité includes doctors and nurses as well as non-medical helpers.

The minimum age for helping is 17 and there is no maximum age. A Helpers Children’s Programme offers a range of activities for the children of our volunteer helpers.

For more details ring 07399 163718 or email: huw.williams@rcdea.org.uk

Papal Nuncio in Walsingham visit

■ Continued from front page.

what does the word blessed mean? Pope Francis helps us to understand in his catechesis of the Sermon of the Mount: “To be blessed does not mean one with a full belly or one who is doing well, but rather it is a person who is in a condition of grace, who progresses in God’s grace and progresses on God’s path: patience, poverty, service to others, comfort. Those who advance in these things are happy and shall be blessed. [...] In order to give Himself to us, God often chooses unthinkable paths, perhaps the path of our limitations, of our tears, of our defeats [...] The Beatitudes always bring you to joy. They are the paths to reach joy. It will do us good to read the Beatitudes in order to understand this very beautiful path, so sure of the happiness the Lord offers us.”

The Papal Nuncio concluded by reaffirming the importance of the Virgin Mary in our lives: “We are not alone, we have the constant help and companionship of the Virgin Mary. Today, she stands before us as the first among the saints, the first disciple of the Lord. We flee to her protection, and to her we present our sorrows and our joys, our fears and our aspirations. We put everything under her protection, in the sure knowledge that she watches over us and cares for us with a mother’s love. With these thoughts in mind, we ask our Mother Mary of Walsingham to continue to guide and protect us in our pilgrimage.”

At the end of Mass, the Nuncio was presented with a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham by the Rector. The Holy Mass, live-streamed by EWTN GB, Radio Maria GB and the Catholic National Shrine, reached a global audience and was well received.

The day concluded with a tour of the Shrine site, including a visit to the Slipper Chapel and Holy Ghost Chapel. The Nuncio enjoyed a shared lunch with Bishop Peter, Bishop Alan and other clergy of the Shrine.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by Monday August 8.

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Corpus Christi marked across East Anglia

Catholics across East Anglia joined Corpus Christi processions and devotions to mark the feast on June 10 and 11.

■ On Corpus Christi Sunday afternoon, the hottest day of the year so far, about 120 clergy and people from St Wilfrid’s deanery gathered at the historic Oxburgh Hall reports Fr Gordon Adam.

“Oxburgh was completed in 1482 for Sir Edmund Bedingfield who was Catholic, and the family have maintained the Catholic faith there constantly ever since, despite the Reformation and persecution of Catholics, and it is an important part of the history of Catholicism in England. The priest hole in the house concealed numerous priests – but none were ever caught here!

“Bishop Peter Collins led a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the outside of the house and the procession gave praise with Eucharistic hymns as they followed the Lord in His Eucharistic presence. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament then took place in the Bedingfield family Chapel (which was standing room only). Helping to lead the procession were children from Swaffham Parish who had made their first Holy Communion earlier in the day.”

■ Parishioners at St Pancras in Ipswich were among many thousands across the country who showed their devotion to Our Lord under the Eucharistic appearances of Bread and Wine on the feast of Corpus Christi. From the end of the main



The Corpus Christi procession at Oxburgh Hall led by Bishop Peter.

Sunday Mass until 3pm there was continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reports Fr Joseph Welch.

“At 3pm, parishioners – including all of this year’s First Holy Communion children and their families – lifted up their voices to sing many of the traditional hymns in honour of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and joined the procession around the church.

“The devotions concluded with solemn Benediction which, in turn, ended with the Salve Regina. Tea and biscuits were served in the parish hall afterwards.”

The altar at St Pancras had a new gold altar frontal and a gold and red screen behind the monstrance for the adoration, both made specially for the occasion by Mary Begg and Chris Urdzik respectively.

■ Another milestone was chalked up in the journey of faith of the Cantonese community in and around East Anglia when on Saturday June 10, they celebrated a Corpus Christi Solemn Mass and, as part of that, a Procession of the Most Holy Sacrament at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston.

Dominic Chung said: “It was an amazing devotional rite that we witnessed. Truly a grace granted us by the Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Many of us had never been to an Eucharistic Procession before, in either Hong Kong or in England.

“Everyone played their part under a scorching but brilliant sun including the many Hong Kong Catholics who came from various parishes in the East Anglia Diocese and beyond and the servers from OLEM Cambridge, St John Fisher, Cam-

bourne and St Philip Howard, Cambridge. Canon John Minh celebrated and Dcn Gianluca Savini was in attendance, once again proclaiming the Gospel in Cantonese – no mean feat.

“To many of us, Christ’s presence in the Blessed Sacrament never felt so real and close. Not only were we blessed with the Holy Communion that we had just received at Mass, we had the privilege to walk with and adore the Most Holy Sacrament,” said Dominic.



The Corpus Christi procession at OLOL, Sawston.

Woodbridge society honours nun with blue plaque

■ The Woodbridge Society recently honoured the legacy of Carmelite nun and renowned stained-glass artist, Sister Margaret Agnes Rope, with a blue plaque at her former Church Street residence reports Fr Edmund Eggleston.

Sister Margaret of the Mother of God was a notable stained-glass artist from the Arts and Crafts Movement in the 1920s and 30s. Her stained-glass windows are present in several Suffolk locations, including the Church of the Holy Family & Saint Michael at Kesgrave, a memorial to her brother, Michael Rope, and Saint Peter's Church at Blaxhall. In Norfolk, her designs grace the

windows of the convent at Quidenham. She also received numerous commissions from across the UK, including Shrewsbury Cathedral and Tyburn Convent, and internationally from Australia, Italy, and South Africa.

A community of Carmelite nuns, originating from the convent at Notting Hill, was established in Woodbridge. Nine nuns and two external sisters arrived from London on September 6, 1921. Cardinal Bourne, the Archbishop of Westminster, blessed the grounds and the convent, which was named the Convent of the Magnificat. By 1925, the number of nuns had risen to twenty.

The convent buildings on Church Street

quickly became too small to accommodate the growing community. The increasing noise of the town also disrupted the nuns' contemplative life. Consequently, the Bishop of Northampton closed Woodbridge Carmel, and the nuns relocated to Rushmere village, near Ipswich, on November 9, 1938. Ten years later, in 1948, they moved to their current residence at Quidenham Hall, Norfolk.

In Woodbridge, the former convent site on Church Street has been renamed "Carmelite Place". Several of the windows that Sister Margaret created for the Convent of the Magnificat at Woodbridge can now be found at Quidenham.



Marriage and family life celebration

Over 200 people gathered on Saturday June 3 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich for the annual Marriage Celebration Mass to celebrate the joy of holy matrimony and significant wedding anniversaries. Antonia Braithwaite reports.

■ The couple celebrating the longest anniversary were Jan and Michael Johnson (pictured right), who were married 65 years ago in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist itself.

In his homily, Bishop Peter Collins reflected on Jesus in the upper room during the Last Supper who told His disciples: 'as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love'. He encouraged all married couples to remember that love is not simply an emotion or a mere sentiment, but rather it is ultimate commitment.

"From that first treasured encounter, one with the other, you began the ascent of the mountain of love," said Bishop Peter. "By God's grace, step by step, sacrifice by sacrifice, you have laboured with hands and heart to build a shared life, a loving companionship.



Bishop Peter with the longest married couple, Jan and Michael Johnson, together with other couples celebrating significant anniversaries. See more pictures at: www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefeastanglia/

"As the married couple journey through life, they together explore the territories of love as ultimate commitment, an exploration which is never complete until we rest in God.

"Love has infinite depth" continued Bishop Peter, "and it is obedience to God that brings all human joy and human

experience to its fulfilment". This is lived out in the myriad of small and large daily choices made by a husband and a wife, motivated by their love of God and love for each other.

"Love one another, as I have loved you," says our Lord Jesus to every married couple.

news in brief

Would you like to sponsor this newspaper?

■ The Diocese of East Anglia is seeking a sponsor for its monthly Catholic East Anglia newspaper, which reaches 52 parishes and up to 7,000 readers each edition with the latest news and features about the local Catholic community.

Editor Keith Morris said: "Print and distribution costs associated with the well-read newspaper have been increasing and we now need to find one or two sponsors who would like to appear regularly in the paper to help us subsidise the cost.

"If you are an organisation or business which would like to reach the East Anglia Catholic community, I would be delighted to discuss details with you about how we could promote your work or services, whilst helping us continue to produce the newspaper in both print and online editions."

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please email Keith at keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk or ring 07712 787762.

Church teaser

■ An unusual fundraising event is being organised to raise funds for Coldham Cottage Church, Lawshall, Suffolk. Coldham has a renowned hall and other buildings associated with the Jesuits who operated across England and Europe during times of recusancy and the suppression of Catholicism. Dating back to 1870, the church, a grade II listed building, is now in great need of restoration.

On Sunday July 31 there will be 'The Tease', a trail in Bury St Edmunds of 35 locations accompanied by 15 challenges, followed by a strawberry tea in the Crypt of St Edmund's Church. Teams of six (adults £10, under 14s £5) will discover some of the lesser-known features and beauty of Bury St Edmunds in a fun and friendly way.

Full details of the event from John Saunders at jes767894@btinternet.com

Peace concert

■ Catholic guitarist and singer Gillian Margolin will be performing at a summer concert for peace and reconciliation, from 12 noon on Thursday July 20 at St Philip's church, 185 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 3AN. The music will include songs by Bob Dylan, John Denver and local composer Cate Williams, alongside Jewish music. More details from Gillian Margolin at margogila61@gmail.com

Suffolk saints link

■ A pilgrimage linking the Suffolk Saints of Felix, Botolph and Edmund will take place between July 3 and 7 from Dunwich to Bury St Edmunds.

It is an opportunity to join others to explore aspects of faith and history whilst walking the beautiful Suffolk landscape.

Full details from John Saunders jes767894@btinternet.com

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Are you living or just existing?

Are you
living or
just exist-
ing, asks
Fr Alvan
Ibeh in his
latest
Voice of
Hope
series.



■ A few weeks ago, we celebrated the feast of Pentecost, which marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, thereby empowering them to become witnesses to the good news: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth."

After receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they didn't stay back anymore; they were not afraid or intimidated anymore; they all went out and began preaching the gospel as they were commanded by the Lord in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

Jesus therefore instructed them not to just exist as apostles but to live as one. It is not just enough to answer the apostles; they must live their lives as those who have been chosen and sent to preach the good news to all. In choosing to live rather than just exist, they didn't find it easy; they were bullied, mocked, persecuted, rejected, etc. But none of these things ever deterred them from living

their apostolic lives to the fullest.

Today, they are all gone, but their work still speaks for them. We remember that they were the first to be called Christians in Acts 11:26, and this was because of their actions. They were open to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they did exploits for God. After the apostles, we have had great men and women of faith who did great things for God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Against all odds, they chose to live and not just exist.

Many of them are long gone, but whenever we remember their good deeds, we glorify God for their lives. They boldly lived their lives as children of God and were never ashamed to be associated with Christians. Ecclesiasticus chapter 44 sings the praises of these men (women): "Let us now praise famous men and our fathers in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory and his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms and were men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding and proclaiming prophecies; leaders of the people in their deliberations and in their understanding of learning for the people; wise in their words of instruction; those who composed musical tunes and set forth verses in writing; rich men (women) furnished with resources; living peaceably in their habitations—all these were honoured in their generations and were the glory of their times. There are some of them who have left a name so that men can declare their praise."

They have been praised because they didn't just exist; they lived their lives to the fullest. What exactly does it mean to live life to

the fullest as a Christian? It is not about having a lot of money, material things, friends and family, going to Mass every Sunday, etc. It is more about living our lives for God and being open to the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. It is more about being spiritual than just religious.

I believe that a full and meaningful life begins with a deep reverence for God. Life is made more meaningful when we worship our Creator. I can't imagine anything more boring and meaningless than to go through life thinking that there is no God (it is only the fool who says there is no God, Psalm 14:1), no Jesus who loves people sacrificially, or that He doesn't matter.

We too, like these great men and women, have been empowered to live and make impacts wherever we find ourselves here on earth. God has not created us to just exist but to live our lives fully and productively. To be alive means that something is breathing, moving, bearing fruit, expanding, or producing. If we consider ourselves still living, we should still be enlarging, reproducing, growing, and increasing in different areas of our lives. It doesn't matter how old or young you are; as long as you are still alive and breathing, there is a reason why you are still on this planet. On the other hand, to exist means that one is alive and breathing, but their life is not producing.

God's plan for us is that we should live and not just exist. He has given us all it takes to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit, which we have all received as Christians. Are you, therefore, living or just existing?

We will conclude this topic in the next edition. Remain blessed.

Equestrian Order Mass in Ely

Two dozen knights and dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem met to celebrate its annual Mass in Ely Cathedral on Saturday May 24. Eastern Section President, John Prestage KC*HS, reports.

■ We robed in the cathedral centre, before processing into the cathedral along the nave which, at over 75m long, remains one of the longest in Britain, and onto the Lady Chapel.

Bishop Peter Collins joined us for the first time since his ordination as Bishop of East Anglia, and was the principal celebrant, assisted by our Prior Bishop David Oakley, Fr Andrew Coy (Bishop David's private secretary) and Fr David Finegan parish priest of St Etheldreda's in Ely who was accompanied by Frankie Tomczyk as altar server.

The Lady Chapel resounded to the singing of the 60-strong congregation, including guests and parishioners from the Ely parish. Our thanks to Fr David for his assistance in organising the Mass.

Bishop David's homily, without notes, was the most enlightening, reflective, and prayerful sermon I have heard in many years. It was so good I almost wanted to applaud when he finished!

After processing back through the cathedral to the centre we moved onto the



Bishop Peter celebrating the Mass in Ely Cathedral assisted by Fr David Finegan.

almonry for lunch; an opportunity to meet our guests, visitors from other sections and prospective new members. We were able to enjoy our pre-lunch drinks on their lawn in the sunshine overlooked by the cathedral.

The Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity is definitely worth a visit. The present building dates back to 1083, it was completed in 1342 and is

acknowledged as one of the wonders of medieval engineering.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was established under the protection of the Holy See as a body in support of the Church across the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The English Lieutenancy is part of a world-wide organisation of 30,000 knights and dames, priests and bishops.

More details at: www.eohsj.org.uk

A celebration of priesthood



■ Bishop Peter Collins led the annual priesthood celebration at the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland, honouring priests marking significant service anniversaries, highlighting their crucial role in ministerial communion and guiding their congregations.

50 priests gathered for the annual priesthood celebration on Monday June 1. The occasion was particularly special for the jubilarian priests, marking significant anniversaries of their dedication to the priesthood.

Honoured at the event were Fr Neville McClement on his 65th anniversary, as

well as Fr Stephen Blair, Fr Philip Blandford CMF, Fr Michael Griffin, Fr Francis Selman, and Fr Keith Tullock SM, celebrating 50 years of service. Fr Brendan Moffatt and Fr James Fyfe were also acknowledged for their 40th and 25th anniversaries, respectively.

In his homily, Bishop Peter spoke of the crucial role of priests: "The priest is called to a personal and ministerial communion with Christ, the High Priest of the New and Eternal Covenant, who offered Himself in sacrifice for our redemption."

He elaborated on their role further, stating: "The priest proclaims the Word

of God in the midst of the people of God; through his sacramental ministry, the priest sanctifies the people entrusted to his care; the priest stands at the altar of sacrifice and celebrates the Mass. In communion with his people, the priest unites himself to the sacrifice of Christ."

He also emphasized the priests' responsibility to guide their congregation, saying: "All the faithful are called to stand at the foot of the cross, called to embrace the cross so as to find their way to the glory of the resurrection. By word and example, the priest must accompany, guide and lead his people

through this journey of faith." The bishop concluded with a powerful reminder for the priests: "The priest, in full communion with the bishop, must faithfully adhere to the universal call to holiness. This adherence will be fulfilled according to the particularities of the priestly ministry."

The event concluded with the bishop and priests enjoying a shared lunch, reflecting a sense of community and unity.

This annual celebration served as a testament to the dedication and commitment of our priests, both to their faith and to their communities.

Adam saves the day in flood

A torrential thunderstorm flooded areas of St John's Cathedral in Norwich on May 11, including irreplaceable archives and musical and liturgical equipment, but further damage was prevented by the fast actions of heroic handyman Adam Walus who climbed on the roof to unblock drains. Keith Morris reports.

■ Around midday a heavy thunderstorm with giant hailstones approached, according to archivist Michael Hill: "Suddenly down the walls in the sacristy, cathedral, Narthex and the diocesan archives, poured torrents of water. The water collected in puddles on the floor and splashed everywhere over furniture, books, organs, vestments and so on.

"It was rather startling to be confronted with water flowing down the walls and dripping onto me in the underground archive from the fixtures and fittings," said Michael. "Meantime, above, in the choir's sacristy, it was all hands to the pumps to try to stem the flow of water towards the musical instruments and music manuscripts. Surplices were wrested from cupboards and thrown on the floor to mop up the water

and a big effort made to move everything away from the water flowing down the walls and over the floor."

In the archives, Michael was piling archive boxes as high and as far away from the threatening wetness. It seemed there was no stopping the inundation.

Cathedral handyman, Adam Walus, leapt into action and climbed up onto the roof as the storm raged around him and identified the root cause of the flood – a vast quantity of hailstones collected and plugged the downpipes, whereupon the water filled the gutters and overflowed onto the walls.

Adam said: "I saw what the problem was. I pushed the ice and hailstones out of the way to let the water escape into the downpipes, where it was meant to go!"

Cathedral manager, Charley Purves, said: "Adam really saved the day as without his actions there would have been a great deal more water and much more damage. Within minutes those battling the encroaching waters noticed a reduction in flow. Then it all stopped. From the panic of trying to save everything from getting wet, everyone quickly focussed on mopping up with anything that came to hand including all of the Cathedral House towels.

"The electrician and fire alarm engineer came that afternoon to check all the areas and devices were safe. Now we wait for everything to dry out."

Back in the archives Michael saw the ambient humidity hit 70% but, a few days later, it is dropping back below 50%.



St John's Cathedral handyman Adam Walus.

Bishop Peter engagements

- **July 1, Sat:** St Peter & All Souls Peterborough, Gala Dinner – 7pm, Holiday Inn West Thorpe Wood, Peterborough
- **July 2, Sun:** SVP Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Led by Bishop Peter. 1.30pm, Mass followed by anointing of the sick, 4pm Benediction
- **July 3, Mon:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Sudbury with Hadleigh
- **July 4, Tues:** Union of Catholic Mothers – Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 12 noon Mass followed by lunch and pilgrimage down Holy Mile for service and benediction
- **July 4, Tues:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, Our Lady of the Assumption & the English Martyrs, Cambridge
- **July 5, Wed:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, St Laurence, Cambridge
- **July 6, Thur:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, St Philip Howard, Cambridge
- **July 8, Sat:** Ordination to the Priesthood of Dcn Mark Ashwood and Dcn Bienn Carlo Manutag – 11.30am, St John's Cathedral
- **July 11, Tues:** Visit and Mass at St Benedict's School Bury St Edmunds on St Benedict's Day
- **July 13, Thur:** Confirmation Mass – 7pm, St Luke's, Ipswich
- **July 15, Sat:** Marriage & Family Life Commission – 11am, Poringland
- **July 16, Sun:** Ignite Team Year "Graduation Mass" – 11am St John's Cathedral
- **July 20, Thur:** Visit and Mass – St Mary's School, Lowestoft
- **July 22, Sat:** Altar Servers' Mass & Barbecue – 11.30am, St John's Cathedral
- **July 25, Tues:** Bishop's Council
- **July 26, Wed:** World Youth Day attendees Mass – 10am, Our Lady, Newmarket
- **July 29, Sat:** Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Paul Raynes – 11.30am
- **July 30 to Aug 7,** World Youth Day, Lisbon, Portugal
Future dates at: www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-

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Young pilgrims call



Over 400 children and parents joined the Diocese of East Anglia Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Tuesday May 30, when they learnt about following Jesus, like Norfolk's St Walstan. Keith Morris reports.

■ Pilgrim groups were in attendance from Norwich, Sawston and Cambourne, Cambridge, Thetford, Wymondham, Huntingdon, Downham Market, North Walsham, Peterborough, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, among others.

The pilgrimage started in the village of Little Walsingham, outside the parish Church of the Annunciation, where young pilgrims were greeted by Bishop Peter Collins. A procession with banners and music was headed by a miniature statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, Youth Services Director Hamish MacQueen on his guitar and Fr Pat Cleary. They processed along the Pilgrim Way to the Walsingham Shrine, stopping for prayers

along the way.

Outside the Chapel of Reconciliation, the statue of Our Lady was greeted by youngsters strewing rose petals along the way.

Opening the Mass, Bishop Peter said: "Thank you all for being here, doing that long pilgrimage walk and coming to pray to Mary our Mother for her help and guidance in our great pilgrimage of faith."

In his homily, Fr Pat Cleary spoke about sheep and their shepherd. He said: "Sheep know their shepherd and follow him, knowing that if they keep close to him they will be safe. Jesus wants us to be like sheep and follow him because he knows the way, like we followed the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham along the pilgrim path.

"Jesus was clear on how we can do this. He said love God and love your neighbour as yourself. We can all do this today whatever our age. Everybody is our neighbour said Jesus.

"Walstan was a 12-year-old Anglo Saxon prince who lived near Norwich 1,000 years ago and who had a lot of money and nice things. But he realized that he would be better off if he gave away everything and followed Jesus as a poor person. So he went to work on

a farm, where he even gave away his shoes. Several springs of water sprung up to refresh him. Today we look to him as a saint of the church.

"We could ask ourselves that, if Jesus stood right in front of us today and said 'follow me', what changes would you make in your life so that you can follow Jesus the shepherd a little more faithfully," said Fr Pat.

Prayers were led by children from Sawston and Cambourne, and youngsters from Wymondham brought flowers for Our Lady with the offertory gifts.

The pilgrimage was brought to an end with a dramatic representation of the life of the young St Walstan, led by Ciaran Losasso, including a procession and the 'miraculous' appearance of three springs in the shrine grounds

Organiser Chris Storman said: "The day went beautifully well with the new twist of the local St Walstan story and drama at the end. It was only the second time we held the Mass outdoors and, apart from a little rain, everything was perfect. It was great to see so many families here."

Some parish groups ended their day on the beach at nearby Wells-next-the-Sea.

ed to follow



The Diocese of East Anglia Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Pictures by Keith Morris. To see full picture gallery visit: [flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia](https://www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia)



Pictured left is the 100-year-old time capsule (also below) being reburied under the new ambo in Sacred Heart Church, Southwold.

Old church time capsule reburied

A 100-year-old time capsule, discovered under the pulpit of the Sacred Heart Church in Southwold during renovations, has been reburied alongside an identical set of current-day items.

of the first Parish Priest, Fr Henry St Leger Mason, holding the time capsule and a card in Fr Henry's handwriting explaining in Latin that the time capsule would be placed under the pulpit on May 16, 1923.

"His note gave the name of the Pope, the Bishop of the Diocese of Northamptonshire, his name as Parish Priest and of the King who was George V. Fr Henry also named the anonymous donor of the pulpit," said Laurette.

"If a pulpit is removed from a listed church, it is preferable for the material to be reused elsewhere in the building and, if possible, where the Word of the Lord is proclaimed. Thus it was decided that the carved stone be used to provide a new altar frontal and an ambo."

Norwich architect Nicholas Warns has overseen the whole renovation project of the church.

Parish priest, Fr Christopher, said: "I am delighted the time capsule will go into the ambo 100 years to the day since it was first placed under

■ On May 16, exactly 100 years since the original time capsule was first placed under the pulpit (May 16, 1923), the original items were re-installed in the new ambo (lectern) along with modern-day versions of the same artefacts.

A 50p piece bearing the head of King Charles III, pages from the day's Times newspaper, a photograph of Parish Priest Fr Christopher Smith and details of the current Holy Father, the Bishop of East Anglia, the Parish Priest and King Charles were added to the original items.

During extensive renovation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in 2019, the original pulpit was removed, explained Laurette Burton.

"Installed in 1923, seven years after the church was built, the pulpit seemed out of proportion with the building and blocked an aisle. During its removal the builders discovered a time capsule underneath. In an old-fashioned milk bottle were pages of the Times newspaper dated May 15, 1923, some contemporary coins, a photograph



the pulpit. The construction of the ambo with panels from the old pulpit marks the completion of the restoration of the church and more importantly provides a worthy and dignified place for the proclamation of the Scriptures, which is in harmony with the altar. The church is not only a place of worship for the Catholic community, but also a place of prayer and a haven of peace and tranquillity for all visitors to our seaside town."

Felixstowe church offers memorial windows chance

■ St Felix Church, a Grade II listed building, is seeking sponsors for a £65,000 project to replace century-old nave windows, offering a unique opportunity for memorials through engraved panes.

St Felix faces a bill of more than £65,000 to replace eight nave windows that date back to 1912. Although the church has funds in the bank, parish priest Canon John Barnes wants to offer companies and individuals the opportunity to sponsor a full window (approximately £8,500 plus VAT) or part of a window (£2,800).

Canon Barnes said, "Work by craftsmen is never cheap, and this large-scale work is going to be very expensive. Sponsors will be able to have one of the diamond-shaped panes engraved with an inscription, perhaps saying it is in memory of someone who has died, or in thanksgiving for some event – a kind of permanent memorial."

He added, "After a hundred years or so, the lead strips in these windows have begun to fail, resulting in the glazing beginning to bulge. If nothing is done, the panes of glass will eventually fall out. We want to replace the green frosted glass with clear glass, which will flood the church with light."

Contact Canon Barnes on 01394 282561 or frjohnfelixstowe@gmail.com

Catholic teacher is named a local hero

A Norfolk Catholic deputy headteacher has been acclaimed as a local hero for her support of a Ukrainian colleague during the hardest year of her life, following the Russian invasion of her country.

■ Deputy head at St Martha's Primary school in King's Lynn, Hayley Pink, was nominated for a Local Hero Award by school teaching assistant Tanya Mikulova for "the kindness, care, support and friendship she has given me during the hardest year of my life."

"I am a British citizen originally from Ukraine and when the Russian invasion started in February, Hayley was the one who always stood by my side to help me get through all the nightmares and fears related to it," said Tanya. "I suffered from severe depression, lost my ability to sleep which made me extremely ill and I couldn't continue with my role as a teaching assistant. Every day Hayley cared about me and my mental health which encouraged me to think positive for the future of my family in Ukraine and take little steps at a time for my own recovery."

Hayley, who has been a teacher for 30 years, was named the Teacher of the Year winner at the Local Hero Awards 2023 ceremony at King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Wednesday April 26 in an event hosted by Your Local Paper (Iliffe Media) with support from West Norfolk Council and local businesses.

She was presented with her award by Olympian, TV presenter and motivational speaker Sharron Davies MBE.

Hayley said: "I felt absolutely honoured and really humbled to accept the award. There were a lot of nominations so just to have been shortlisted was incredible, then to win, was unbelievable."



Hayley Pink, on the right, receiving her award from Sharon Davies. Picture © Your Local Paper/Ian Burt.

"I really felt it wasn't just an award for me, but for the whole staff team at St Martha's including the support staff, midday assistants, cleaners and teachers. It is just

such a wonderful environment to work in, with such a family feel about it. I've been there for 18 years, the school holds a really special place in my heart."



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Challenge to put the Synodal Way into practice

■ **The Continental Stage of the Synodal Way has officially ended with the challenge now to put it into practice, says Dcn Huw Williams.**

This new stage in preparing for the Synod of Bishops was a real process of listening and discernment at a continental level.

The question that formed the basis for these assemblies was the same question of the synodal process as a whole: How is our 'walking together' which enables the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accord with the mission entrusted to her, being achieved today?

The seven assemblies were all representative of the People of God including bishops, priests, consecrated men and women and laity. The fruit of their discus-

sions is in the final document that each assembly produced and will serve as a contribution to the work of the first session of the Synod of Bishops – now due to take place in October 2024.

The European Assembly's final document is now available online at: prague.synod2023.org/en/final-document/

The seven continental documents will form the basis of the Instrumentum Laboris, the working document for the Synod of Bishops. The document is expected to be available and presented by the end of May.

The participants in the Synod are to include a group of 70 "non-bishop" members among whom will be lay people appointed directly by the Pope. Of these "non-bishop" members, half will be women and there will be several young people. All 70 will enjoy voting rights: there will be around 370 voting members out of more than 400 total participants.

The conclusion of the consultation does not mean the end of the synodal process within the People of God, nor does it mean the interruption of the dialogue between the

universal church and the diocese. Rather, it means leaving the local communities – us – with the challenge of putting the synodal way into practice in the daily routine of our Church in East Anglia, in the knowledge that much of what has been discussed and identified so far at the local level does not require the discernment of the universal church nor the intervention of the Magisterium of Peter.

As a diocese, and within our parishes, we need to be continually asking ourselves the same question 'how is our walking together enabling the mission of the Church to be fulfilled?', especially amongst those most in need. Are we discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit regarding our future direction? Are we continuing to enable a listening process to take place within our parish settings? Are we reaching out in the love of Christ to those in need?

We are all called constantly to listen to one another in order to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who comes to guide us, breathing life and vitality into the Church. Let us continue our synodality, our journeying together.

Nick's 50 years of church music

Nick Walmsley has just completed an impressive 50 years of service as the organist at St Helen's, Hoveton and Our Lady and St Walstan, Costessey, using the talent he believes God has given him, despite health challenges. Josh Clovis reports.

■ There is something uniquely multi-faceted about music, and for Nick, organist and Director of Music at St Helen's Hoveton and Our Lady and St Walstan, Costessey in Norfolk, it is much more than just playing notes. Born in Hoveton in April 1960, opposite the then-new St Helen's Catholic church, Nick's spiritual and musical paths have been entwined ever since he was the second baby baptised at that church and, at the extraordinarily young age of 12, when he became the first organist of the church, a role he has held continuously ever since.

Nick honed his skills at the Paston School in North Walsham, and first played at Belaugh St Peter, an Anglican church close to home, in September 1972. His musical talent encouraged the clergy at St Helen's to start sung Masses, accompanied by Nick and an old reed organ. It was a small but significant start to what would be a lifelong dedication to church music.

In 1979, a new pipe organ, built in the Baroque style, was installed at St Helen's. This was the first of its kind in the UK, marking another milestone in Nick's journey as a church musician. "My dedication is two-fold: I've been given a specific talent and that talent should be used in the service of God, whether leading congregations in singing, or trying to the best of my ability to lift their emotions with the solo music in the Mass. It sounds glib, but it is what any church musician must do," says Nick.

His association with the organ is not merely about



Nick Walmsley on the organ at St Walstan's earlier this year. Picture by Henry Bedingfield.

duty or devotion, he says it has also served as a healing force amidst his personal struggles with poor health. He reflects: "Having had a life-long chronic illness, I find playing the organ has a relaxing and healing effect – I've not missed many Sundays in 50 years, despite frequent hospitalisation and operations in the early days. It is the one thing that has kept me going."

Nick's musical journey extends beyond the borders of East Anglia. He has been a guest artist at the Valletta Festival of History and Elegance in Malta and has performed live on Radio Malta. His international performances include playing the famous 'Bamboo Organ' at Las Piñas, and the 18th-century organ at San Agustin in Intramuros, Manila, in the Philippines.

Not just a player, but also a composer, Nick is known for his skill in improvisation. His work has been broad-

cast on the BBC and he was awarded the Diocesan Medal for Services to Music and the Liturgy in 2019.

The ability to convey feelings through his music, as he describes, is a unique part of his performances. "There are times when you feel like a lightning conductor – on those occasions the Spirit moves – and he does! – and something takes over, so you merely channel it, like a form of prayer. What I'd find hard to express in words, I can in music," he explains.

Nick's story is an inspiring one of a journey of resilience and devotion. His life is a testament to the power of music in uplifting the spirit, serving a higher purpose and overcoming personal trials. From a church opposite his birthplace to the far corners of the world, he has carried the message of harmony and hope through his talent, faith and dedication.

Pentecost unites 20 nations

■ Over 20 nationalities were represented in the Pentecost celebrations at St Edmund's, Bury St Edmunds, which included a multi-cultural Mass and a shared meal. John Saunders reports.



On Sunday May 28, a shaft of sunlight through the church windows heralded the wonderful entrance of two dozen flag-waving parishioners, proudly representing their heritage.

This was Pentecost at St Edmund's, where a congregation of 250 gathered in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Mass was celebrated by Fr Anil Zachery, with Canon David Bagstaff as concelebrant.

Under the direction of Patricia Mason and Mick Truman, the service was enriched by the singing of members from diverse parish groups, many of whom were dressed in traditional costumes.

In his homily, Fr Anil emphasized our belief in 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic church,' and paid tribute to those who had delivered such an inspirational commem-

oration of Pentecost.

Prayers of intercession were also delivered in the languages of the readers, and translated by them into English.

Having learned the significance of Pentecost during the children's liturgy, the children joined the procession at the offertory, waving flags, adding to the celebrations.

Exiting the church after Mass, the array of colours from the flag-bearers created an atmosphere of festival and happiness. The day was summed up perfectly by a parishioner's words, 'I think today we have had a glimpse of what life in heaven will be.'

Lunch in the crypt continued the multi-cultural theme, with traditional foods from different countries being served. But, perhaps most importantly, a single voice of unity rose above differences in our lives.



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Ben's world of football and faith

There is only one thing which German football expert, UEA researcher and podcast presenter Ben McFadyean is more enthusiastic about than the “beautiful game” – and that is his Catholic faith. Keith Morris reports.

■ Podcaster Ben, aged 53, has interviewed scores of footballers and managers, including several from Norwich City, for his popular Borussia Dortmund fans podcast and he is the founder and president of the Dortmund supporters club in London.

Norwich-based Ben is a PhD researcher in German football literature at UEA and he lives and breathes football. His diagnosed Asperger's gives him an edge in remembering the multitude of facts and figures necessary and a keen focus on detail.

But Ben will admit that it is his Catholic faith which is the most important part of who he is and it is what drives him.

Born in England, Ben spent a large part of his childhood in Dortmund in Germany where he acquired a love of the beautiful game, especially Borussia Dortmund and learnt to speak German.

Via Mallorca, Spain where his family still live, Ben ended up at University College London studying German and after graduating, spent time working in finance and later in charity fund-raising for the Lord Mayor of London, the Red Cross, a refugee project he developed with Oxford United in 2017, and a project with The Big Issue and Southampton FC.

He later spent five months working with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity with orphans in Ethiopia and volunteering with the chaplaincy at the John Radcliffe Children's Hospital in Oxford.

A keen charity fundraiser, Ben's most recent project was raising £800 for the DEC Earthquake appeal for Turkey/Syria by organising a friendly football match between Chelsea and Dortmund fans in London in February, to coincide with the two teams meeting in the European Champions League.

“Faith has brought me to a place in football and in my life which I would never have expected,” said Ben. “I cannot say I have made lots of money from my writing yet, but I am a fulfilled man and I try to do things for others whenever I can.”



Ben McFadyean left, at the University of East Anglia and, above, with Norwich City manager, David Wagner.

“God often gives you a natural leaning towards something. Life is so much easier when you follow your calling of what God wants you to do.”

Ben's faith was inspired in his youth by his grandmother Jean who was a church-warden and it was rekindled when he met his estranged father at the age of 30.

“My father was an off-shore banker, made money but developed issues with substance abuse addiction while working on Wall Street in New York,” said Ben. “After he broke his back in a bobsleigh accident he became a born-again Christian and said it had saved his life.

“He bought me a Bible and I started going to Mass at the Brompton Oratory in London and I realised that there was something special there which was beyond comprehension. It was a bit like the football – it lifted me up and made sense to me – a reverence for something higher. It also reminded me of my grandmother and gave me a sense of peace.

“I found football as a child and played at a decent county standard. I excelled in every kind of sport but could not do

maths because I have dyspraxia. Five years ago I found out that I also have Asperger syndrome, which explains why I sometimes have difficulties in social interaction.”

Conversely, the Asperger's has helped Ben with his football journalism: “It has made me brilliant at focusing and given me an encyclopaedic mind and memory for all the important details and stats. It has also given me patience and the ability to give players time in a world which is incredibly pressurised.

Ben writes for FourFourTwo magazine, the BBC, Gulf News and a number of German publications. He has appeared on numerous TV and radio stations in Germany.

A member of the famed Dortmund supporters' Yellow Wall, Ben's passion and commitment to promoting the team in the UK has helped to spark the fascination with Dortmund in this country. He has run the London fan club since 2013 and organises tickets, travel details and accommodation for fellow supporters.

Of course Ben's local club, Norwich City, have a strong German connection with former manager Daniel Farke and present manager David Wagner.

Former Norwich players Timm Klose and Christoph Zimmermann are both Catholic and Christoph regularly attended St John's Cathedral, where Ben is a parishioner. Ben has interviewed them all.

“The story of German football is one that has not been told properly in the UK,” says Ben. “The integrity of the German football model of cheap tickets and a fantastic atmosphere at grounds – is an authentic football experience. I feel that the Bundesliga is the world's most authentic football product.

“German players and coaches bring so

much to the English game in terms of their sheer competence and traditional English values such as determination, discipline, hard work and ingenuity.”

Ben also has a great admiration for openly Catholic footballers from countries such as Brazil, Argentina and from Africa, players like Willian, Sergio Aguero or Victor Wanyama: “They are such an example to me because they come from nothing and make it in football and it is often because of their devotion and love for God.

“You can bring the Gospel to people around you in daily life, whether you are a doctor, a mechanic or a journalist. What has inspired me the most is that I can still be of service to others – taking down someone's story and writing it with sincerity and devotion and not looking for the scandal, or angle or the distortion that will get the story sold to a tabloid paper.

“I am someone who cares about the people I write about and want them to come across in the right way – to tell their story the way they want it told. I am devoted to getting it right and expressing their story and being respectful of them.

“I think there is a reason it is called the 'beautiful game' because it breaks down barriers and it can lift people up. It does some of what the church is meant to do. It reaches hearts and minds and inspires and lifts people up even in dark times,” says Ben.

Ben is keen to highlight the role of his faith in his work and life: “Without God I am useless, I am a broken man. But by letting God work through me I can do extraordinary things. I have felt the presence of God in my life very strongly since I found God in 1999.”

mcfadyean.podbean.com

May devotions to Our Lady in Ipswich

■ May devotions to Our Lady at St Pancras Church in Ipswich were attended by about 60 parishioners, including 15 children who were due to be making their first Holy Communion in June.

Fr Joseph Welch said: “The service began in the hall with the blessing of a crown of flowers and the crowning of the statue of Our Lady by one of the First Communicants, Claudia Griggs. The statue was then carried in procession whilst the children sprinkled flower petals on the ground to lay a carpet at her feet. Several old favourite Marian hymns were sung – including May is the Month of Mary, Bring Flowers of the Rarest, and Daily, Daily Sing to Mary – as the procession made its way outside on to the streets around the church, much to the amazement of onlookers.

“After processing around the church, the statue of Our Lady was placed in the sanctuary and there followed solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, after which everyone retired to the hall again for refreshments.”

Norfolk's farm boy saint – Walstan

Nick Walmsley begins a new occasional series on local saints with a look at Norfolk's farm boy saint – St Walstan.

■ Saint Walstan (c.975 – 1016) is one of those fascinating Anglo-Saxon saints canonised by 'unanimous local approval' for his witness to God through an especially good and holy life.

Born into nobility at Bawburgh, Norfolk, Walstan renounced his inheritance and worked as a farm labourer at Taverham from the age of 12. Known for his humility, he gave away his wages, food and clothing.

Once, meeting two men who lacked food and shoes, Walstan gave them his. This generosity annoyed the farmer's wife, so as punishment she sent him to load a cart with brambles and thorns – barefoot. Walstan obeyed and, as he trod down the load, the thorns became like rose petals, wonderfully perfumed.

The farmer and his wife threw themselves at his unmarked feet begging forgiveness. They wanted to make Walstan their heir, but he only accepted the gift of that cart and two white oxen.

On Friday May 27, 1016, Walstan was mowing hay with another labourer when an angel revealed that he would be called to Paradise in three days. The following day he suddenly laid down his scythe saying he was forbidden to work until Monday: he had heard bells ringing above him and the sound of celestial trumpets.

His comrade saw and heard nothing, so Walstan told him to place his foot on his own and his friend was favoured with the sounds and sights of heaven.

On Monday May 30, the two men were mowing together when Walstan stopped work, saying that his hour had come. The priest brought Viaticum, but forgot water for the ablutions; they prayed and a spring appeared. After commending himself to God, Our Lady and the Saints, Walstan prayed that anyone with a sick animal and those disabled by illness should call on God in his name – "and not just once" – that they might find quick relief.

All present heard a voice confirming his request and, as Walstan breathed his last, something like a white dove flew up from his mouth, disappearing into a bright cloud.

His body was laid on his cart and the two white oxen yoked to it. Off they went, crossing the River Wensum dry-



Parishioners completed a four-mile pilgrimage to St Walstan's Well in Bawburgh from Our Lady and St Walstan Church at Costessey on June 4, accompanied by Parish Priest Fr David Ward. "It was a perfect day – sunny but not too hot," said Fr David, "and others met us at the well for a short service and a picnic."

shod, and pausing in Costessey where another well sprang up, still visible near Queen's Hills. The oxen finally stopped

below Bawburgh church and a third well sprang up - the present St Walstan's Well.

Walstan was carried up to the church and buried there. His shrine became a place of pilgrimage, with many miracles noted: it was destroyed in 1538, and Walstan's remains burnt and scattered.

Although declared 'unfit for human consumption' in 1951, the well water continues to

be used, most recently for the re-consecration of the Catholic church of Our Lady and St Walstan.

There have been many closely documented inexplicable cures up to modern times of animals and people. Annual pilgrimages to the well still take place, and Walstan, Norfolk's farm boy saint, remains high in local affections.



The St Walstan icon in Our Lady and St Walstan Church at Costessey. Walstan holds a crown, signifying noble birth, his scythe as a farmworker and is depicted barefoot.

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Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Bishop Peter Collins' inaugural visit to Our Lady and St Walstan's Church in Costessey marked the memorable Confirmation Mass of seven young congregation members, accentuating the spirit of unity and faith within the parish community.

On Monday June 5, Our Lady and St Walstan's church in Costessey warmly welcomed Bishop Peter. The occasion was a notable one: the Confirmation Mass for seven young members of the congregation is a key milestone in their journey of faith.

Fr David Ward said: "Seven young people were confirmed during a very relaxed and enjoyable celebration, during which Bishop Peter spoke caringly and wittily to everyone. This atmosphere was facilitated by Bishop Peter's approachable manner, where faith was acknowledged with a balance of solemnity and warmth."

"The Mass was succeeded by a joyful gathering in the Garden Room. The festivities further spilled over into the adjoining Victorian walled garden, creating a unified ambiance of community celebration."

Fr David commented on the spirit of fellowship and collaboration demonstrated at the event: "The families of the young people and a number of parishioners provided an absolute feast for the occasion."

"The Confirmation Mass and subsequent gathering highlighted the strong bonds within the Our Lady and St Walstan's community. The church continues to be a place where faith is not just professed, but lived and celebrated. The confirmation of seven young individuals signified not only their personal faith journeys, but also marked a momentous celebration for the parish as a whole."

Pictured right is Bishop Peter with the seven young Confirmation candidates at Costessey.



■ A hard working team representing the diverse St Luke's, Peterborough, parish community of 14 nations from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America came together to create an International Community Festival on Sunday May 21.

The festival, which included a dedicated 12 noon Mass, began with the blessing of food from parish priest Fr Jeffrey Downie at 1.30pm, after which international cuisine was served from gazebos in the garden grounds of the church.

The event comprised food, games and entertainment from all the continents, plus a bouncy castle and face painting for the children.

Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, Joe Rodriguez, said: "Some 400 plus people attended in support of the World Youth Day pilgrims from the parish."

"Countries participating were Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Argentina, Columbia, United States of America, India, China, East Timor, the Philippines, Singapore, Cameroon and Nigeria. Many wore their national costumes."

"Thanks to the fantastic steering team for their time and efforts in the production of this event, as a wonderful day was had by all." Picture by Joe Rodriguez.



■ The church garden at St Mary Magdalen is being transformed into a space of tranquility and wildflower colour thanks to the on-going work of parishioners.

"During the pandemic the church garden at St Mary Magdalen had become very neglected and overgrown," said Chrissie Riches. "In addition to this, a new Parish Garden room was being completed and so the garden had become like a building site in places."

"Thanks to some parish working parties, and then the on-going work of a couple of parishioners, the garden is being transformed into a space of tranquility and colour. Some parishioners have also donated plants and seeds from their own gardens to help."

"Now, amongst other things, there are more formal beds of perennial and annual plants, a memorial garden, a lavender parterre, a herb garden, alpines and a beautiful swathe of wildflowers currently in full bloom attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinators."

"We have a bird feeding station, also made by a parishioner, and the garden is also full of birdsong at this time of year. At the front of the church we have planters with plants mainly chosen for their scent and colour," said Chrissie.

Parish priest Fr Paul Chanh also posts updates from the garden on our parish Facebook page, enjoying the garden.

Pictured are parishioners in the garden.



■ Fr Tibor Borovský, parish priest of St Joseph's Church in St Neots hosted a Garden Party to thank parish volunteers for their service on May 13. The day started with the Crowning of Our Lady in the garden. Michael McLoughlin had the honour of placing the crown, in memory of his late wife Mary McLoughlin, who was a founding member of the parish Rosary group. Prayers were led by Fr Tibor and Ann McDermott (pictured left). Afterwards, about 50 parish volunteers enjoyed the festivities and food.

